

Evening Bulletin

With which is Incorporated the "Independent."

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With which is incorporated the INDEPENDENT.

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THE LEGISLATURE.

THE CABLE SCHEME MADE PUBLIC THIS MORNING.

After a Hard Fight to Prevent Rail-roading, it Was Referred to a Special Committee of Five.

FIFTIETH DAY, AUGUST 12TH.

THE SENATE.

After the usual preliminary consequent on the opening of the Senate Minister Hatch announced that the President had signed the bill creating a Labor Commission, making extra appropriations for the use of the Legislature, exempting public libraries from taxation, repealing previous cable legislation and the new cable bill.

The Senate concurred in the House amendment to Senate Bill 13, regulating the proceedings and motions for new trials.

After waiting half an hour Minister Hatch finally presented a communication from the President stating that with the consent of the Cabinet he had entered into a contract with Zephaniah Swift Spalding looking to the laying of an inter-island cable and also one to the west coast of the United States. The contract as read to the Senate occupies thirty odd pages of type-written matter of which the following is a synopsis:

The government of Hawaii grants to Spalding and his assignees the exclusive franchise for a cable between San Francisco and Honolulu and an inter-island cable for twenty years from November 1st, 1895. The contract provides that the western terminus of the cable must be at or near San Francisco and the local terminus at or near Honolulu for the full term of twenty years, and that the exclusive right guaranteed shall not interfere with the right of other countries with whom Hawaii has treaty relations to touch at these islands with cables intended strictly for military or naval purposes.

The subsidy granted is \$40,000 per annum, payable in U. S. gold coin at the Finance Department in quarterly payments of \$10,000. In consideration thereof the contractor binds himself to commence the actual laying of the cable on or before May 1st, 1897, and complete the same before November 1st, 1898. It recites that the contractor will use his best endeavors to obtain a subsidy from the United States Congress and that a failure to do so will terminate the contract at the option of this government.

Interruptions in cable communications, after once established, for more than ninety days at a time will result in forfeiture of the subsidy at the rate of \$30,000 a year on the through cable and \$10,000 per year on the inter-island one.

Should either line fail to keep up communication for a year the contract becomes null and void.

The government grants Mr. Spalding the free use of the right of way across all government lands for the necessary land cables and also convenient sites for terminal offices, etc. All material used in the construction of the cable is admitted free of duty and all ships exclusively conveying such material are to be exempt from all harbor or port dues except pilotage. The property of the cable company is also to be exempt from taxation for twenty years.

On his part the contractor agrees to construct and maintain an inter-island cable commencing at Kawaihae on the island of Hawaii and thence running to Niihau, Maui, From Niihau the cable will run to Pukoo on Molokai, and from thence across to Waikiki. From there it will run overland to Waianae, then under water to Nawiliwili, Kauai. The total length of the inter-island cable will be 177 miles. The through cable will start from Waikiki and land at Monterey bay, 75 miles south of San Francisco or in case the Chamber of Commerce of that city should construct the much-talked-of line to the Farallone Islands, 40 miles outside the harbor, it may land and connect there. The contractor agrees to have everything in running order by November 1st, 1898, but secures himself with the usual proviso in case of strikes, lockouts, etc., which may affect his contracts.

After the inter-island line has been in operation for one year the Hawaiian government may assume ownership thereof upon paying the actual cost of the land lines built in connection with it and no more, the contractor agreeing to deliver up the same free from all liens and debts whatsoever; the government, however, continuing to pay the full amount of the subsidy for the remainder of the term.

Much space is devoted to specifications containing the size, weight and quality of the cables used. The main wire will of course be of copper of such a thickness as to weigh 400 pounds to the mile and having a capacity of transmitting at least fifteen words per minute without intermission. The cable as protected with the necessary rubber and galvanized iron wire coatings must be able to stand a uniform pressure of 52 tons to the square inch.

The maximum rates for inter-island messages are ten cents per word, but the company is not obliged to accept any message for less than one dollar.

Through rates are to be one dollar per word or such rate as may be fixed by the government of the United States. Press rates are to be one-half the above, but no message may be sent for less than one dollar. Should the messages sent be to Japan, China or Australia by way of San Francisco only a pro rata of the whole distance is to be charged at the rates of the connecting lines. All government messages are to be free up to the amount of the subsidy at regular rates, after which the usual rates will be exacted.

The contractor deposits with the Minister of Finance \$25,000 in Hawaiian bonds as a guarantee of good faith, to be forfeited if he fails to keep the conditions of his contract; otherwise to be returned to him upon the completion thereof.

The contract was signed this morning by the President and members of the Cabinet and Col. Spalding.

Minister Hatch then introduced a Joint Resolution approving the terms of the contract.

Senator Brown in moving the adoption of the resolution said that Hawaii was now entering upon a new era and the time had come when a cable was a necessity. He considered Col. Spalding's the most business-like proposition yet advanced and he was heartily in favor of it. The Australian cable proposition advanced by Messrs. Sandford Fleming and Mercer included a \$35,000 subsidy and offered no inter-island communication. For \$5,000 a year extra all the islands of Hawaii were to be connected. That certainly was little enough considering the great benefits which

would arise from it, in business as in other matters. He called attention to the fact that under the present route adopted the islands were not only connected with Honolulu but with each other. Of course, unless the contractors received aid from the United States the scheme would fall through. He believed they intended to ask for \$250,000 per annum, but whatever the amount was the whole thing hinged on favorable action by Congress. With regard to the exclusive clause in the contract he mentioned that every franchise granted since 1888 contained a similar provision, but maintained that an exclusive franchise must be granted in order to procure the necessary money from the sale of bonds. Investors must have some assurance that they would be secure from opposition for a certain period at least before they would part with their money. He would submit that the way was open for the payment of the subsidy without taking one single cent out of the treasury. It was by licensing the sale of opium and placing the duty at \$6 per pound. The present system of conducting the opium business was simply a ludicrous farce, out of which the government gets nothing.

Senator Hooking moved to go into Committee of the Whole. He objected to the exclusive franchise because it shut out all opposition. Under the present plan the scheme was guaranteed a success from the start. He thought Hawaii should have waited for the action of the United States first. He agreed that the time was ripe for a cable, but Hawaii held the key to the position and should hold back. It was the Gibraltar of the Pacific and could dictate its own terms. If the Spalding scheme worked his company would have just \$2,000,000 the advantage of any other company desiring to construct a through line, and could effectually shut one out unless they agreed to Spalding's terms. "The more cables, the more business," the Senator said, and he wanted plenty of them. He thought that the moment the United States subsidized the cable plenty of companies would be bidding for it and Hawaii would get it for nothing. Our little \$40,000 a year would cut no figure in the cost. He called attention to the fact that Congress met in December and would be in session for months. We could shape legislation at the February session to suit the United States and know that what we were doing would be satisfactory to them. He did not believe in east-iron contracts with any one.

The Senator's motion was not seconded.

Senator Schmidt moved that the resolution be referred to a select committee of five. He was in favor of the cable but did not believe in unseemly haste. He thought the committee should consult with the Chamber of Commerce and business men before reporting.

Senator Hooking seconded the motion.

Senator Brown did not believe in consulting the Chamber of Commerce or anyone else. It was lowering the dignity of the Senate.

Senator McCandless favored the scheme, but objected to its being rushed through. The exact terms had only just been made public, and he believed the people and the press should be allowed at least 24 hours to discuss it.

Senator Horner agreed with the last speaker.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 7 to 5, and the president

(Continued on 4th page.)